

Zero-to-NEWS Three

from the Early Intervention Section,
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The Early Intervention Section of the State Department of Health provides developmental services for any eligible child from birth to three years of age in five areas: physical, cognitive, communication, social or emotional, and adaptive.

Services are available on all islands and there is no cost to families.

For more information, please contact our Hawaii Keiki Information Services System (HKISS) referral and information line at 973-9633 for Oahu and 1-800-235-5477 for Neighbor Islands.

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Finding 0-3

Like many expecting parents, Mercy Seagrave prepared for the birth of her baby. But this time it was different. Unlike her other three children, doctors said this baby may have Down's Syndrome (DS). Having had a child with a disability before, Seagrave was prepared to give lots of additional attention and care.

"While I was pregnant, I was looking all over for something for him," says Seagrave. She knew her baby



would need occupational or physical therapy. Babies born with DS usually have low muscle tone and loose ligaments that challenge their early motor development. Even breastfeeding was a challenge. "They (the hospital) wouldn't let me breastfeed him because he wouldn't be able to suck." But Seagrave got her way and eventually breastfeed her new son, Kalei.

Finding the right therapy services, however, proved to be another challenge. Neither her doctor nor the hospital mentioned early intervention services. She tried groups associated with DS but was told they usually work with older children. Other parents who had children with DS also did not know.

Finally, at age six months, Seagraves enrolled Kalei in the Wahiawa Early Childhood Services Program (ECSP). According to Seagrave, it was not until she applied for Social Security that she learned about early intervention services. Social Security called the HKISS referral line and as Seagrave puts it, "HKISS hooked me up with 0-3."

The journey since has been full of rewards. Kalei was recently a proud graduate of the Wahiawa ECSP this past June. He is now enrolled in preschool but is a bit uncomfortable with his new daily routine. "At the beginning he liked it because it was new. Now he realizes that he has to stay so he does not like it...Over here (Wahiawa ECSP) I can leave him and he's fine because to him this is his second home...they always made it like 'he was their child'."

Seagrave preferred to visit Wahiawa ECSP than to schedule home visits. She wanted Kalei to be with others and socialize while receiving services.



Although she was scheduled to visit about two to three times a week, she always asked if there was a

cancellation so she could bring Kalei in for more visits. (Continued on page 3.)

OSEP VISITS HONOLULU

From May 28-31, 2002, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) visited Hawaii to present its official findings of its monitoring activities that was conducted in earlier visits to the islands (October 2000 and February 2001). The official text of the report was released on June 5, 2002. It is available at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/Monitoring/OSEPMonitoringReports.html>.

OSEP's monitoring activities were part of the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process that they conduct in all states. Its purpose is to assess all states' implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Parts B and C. Further, it serves to ensure the effectiveness of State efforts in providing early intervention and special education services to children from birth to age 20 with disabilities. *(Continued on page 4.)*

public awareness

The Early Intervention Section (EIS) participated in several events this past quarter to promote and expand awareness of its services.

On August 10th and 11th, EIS participated in Keiki Fair 2002. Keiki Fair 2002 was an opportunity to interact with parents and other providers of children's products, programs, and services. The fair was held at the Neil S. Blaisdell Center and approximately 15,000 attended.



A big Mahalo to James LeVine of Childhood Resources, Inc., who provided a complimentary booth to EIS. Another big Mahalo to the

(Continued on page 4.)

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Jennifer Schember-Lang

I grew up in Minnesota where the floor often felt cold to bare feet and I learned to slide my feet **into** shoes (and out of boots)



Jennifer Schember-Lang

before entering the living area of the house. Having lived in Hawaii for 14 years, I've adopted the habit of sliding my feet **out of** shoes before

I enter the house. I am now in the midst of trying on some new shoes.

As a member of the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC), I have been the beneficiary of the grace and wisdom and knowledge of past HEICC Chair Ha'aheo Mansfield. As I assume that role, I again realize how difficult it will be to fill her shoes.

About 18 months ago, Ha'aheo accepted my invitation to be the keynote speaker at a regional conference held here in Hawaii. I had no guidelines for the speech other than suggest it come from her own experience as a parent. The day of her speech, I greeted her and guided her to the front of the meeting room. Then I took my seat and she guided me and others with a message I will never forget.

Ha'aheo spoke of the concept of Aloha as a belief system that respect the common good as opposed to the few. She spoke of the universal abundance of gifts lying dormant in our children and in the lives of professionals who pass through life of a family with a child with special needs. She spoke of parents as master navigators and teachers of navigation who will make new landfalls in as yet uncharted waters. Ha'aheo identified her "Pele persona," the part that is the best, most creative and scariest. Many parents exhibited this same Pele persona and changed the landscape of

early intervention by creating new and uncharted territory through efforts exhibiting bravery, courage, commitment to family and friends and following the chants of their children.

The audience heard Ha'aheo chant. Chants tell of patient tutoring and a hunger for learning. They tell of comfort and forgiveness, of acknowledgement and acceptance, of in-coming and out-going tides of understanding and changing realities. She encouraged us to listen carefully to the chants that fill all our lives as statements filled with personal truths.

She shared the steps of laulau preparation and how those steps mirror the essential basic work in early



Ha'aheo Mansfield

intervention (identify what we want to do; engage in a process that enables those involved to offer what they feel they can; get input and commitment from

family and friends as a pooled knowledge that can exceed our expectations; approach a project with trust and build on that trust by expressing expectations early and often – the eloquence of repetition).

And finally, Ha'aheo spoke of vision and daring to dream and steering a canoe into uncharted waters with unfamiliar guiding stars, winds, and current. She reminded us that while we might feel alone, a flotilla of canoes filled with children and parents, siblings, teachers, doctors, nurses, friends and relatives accompany us.

I read this keynote address from time to time in my own work to support families. As I step into Ha'aheo's shoes as HEICC Chair, I want to thank her for her friendship, her guidance, and her leadership. May she continue to share her skills and aloha with all of us.

Note: Mansfield was the past HEICC Chair. Schember-Lang is the new Chair for 2002-2003.

congratulations

june graduates



Danika Loo, Imua Rehab



Justin Silva, Imua Rehab



Kiana Pagan, Easter Seals



Cassidy Cain, Easter Seals



Tristin Shelton, Molokai Family Support Center



Kylee-Lynn Bush, Molokai Family Support Center



Taylor Pere, Windward ECSP*



Kayla Hida, Windward ECSP*



Alex Yozzo, United Cerebral Palsy (left)



Nate Allison, United Cerebral Palsy (right)



Dean Hariguchi-Cambra, Leeward ECSP*



Roncie Chambrella, Leeward ECSP*

*Early Childhood Services Program

Finding 0-3 *continued from page 1*

By two years old, Kalei was walking. He was also able to communicate in full sentences (three words) while crawling but lapsed to one word when he started to walk. Now that he is more comfortable with walking and running, he is beginning to communicate with more words once more. He

also likes to play on the computer and being read to everyday.

With early intervention services, Kalei has achieved all his goals and then some. But not without the loving support from his mother and family. "I just want him to lead a normal life just like everybody else. I want him to be in regular classes...I want him to be strong and not let people do to him what

people do to kids just like him...I want him to stand up for himself...He can be like my other kids," says Seagrave.

He is like other kids his age. He likes the color blue and *Clifford, the Big Red Dog*. His best friend is named Emma. He can count up to five. He loves noodles, rice, and vanilla ice cream but not necessarily in that order. And the next time you see Kalei with Seagrave, ask him to sing 'Happy Birthday' or 'I love you'. He will joyfully do so.

(Public Awareness-cont. from page 2.)

Kunia and Mililani Wal-Marts for donating small giveaways for the fair.



Staffers who facilitated the process included: Tom Munson, Heidi Ramos, Marie Ladeira, and Gloria Amba.

EIS also participated in two very important events in October. On October 5, EIS sponsored 60 individuals that included 22 family members to attend the 2002 Early Childhood Conference. Workshops involving the latest in early childhood education and care issues were addressed.

Finally, EIS participated in the Eighth Annual Children and Youth Day held on October 6 at the State Capitol.

This event featured many interactive, hands-on activities for the children. About 17,000 attended this event.



(OSEP--continued from page 2)

For early intervention services, OSEP reviewed five Part C cluster areas: General Supervision, Child Find and Public Awareness, Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments, Family-Centered System of Services, and Early Childhood Transition. Recommendations for improvement were made for all areas except Family-Centered System of Services.

During OSEP's visit in May 2002, Hawaii began the process of developing an improvement plan to be submitted in response to OSEP's monitoring report. Workgroups were formed for Part C cluster areas that needed improvement.

The workgroups were a collaborative effort and partnership between the public and private communities. Membership included State and private providers of early intervention services, Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council, the State Department of Education, physicians, public health

nurses, Healthy Start, Early Head Start, families, and advocates for children.

The workgroups met often from June to September to complete the improvement plan for OSEP approval. Many thanks to these hardworking individuals for volunteering and participating!

2003 UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Learning & Growing Together
with Families
Annual Pac Rim Conference

APRIL

2003 SPIN Conference

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